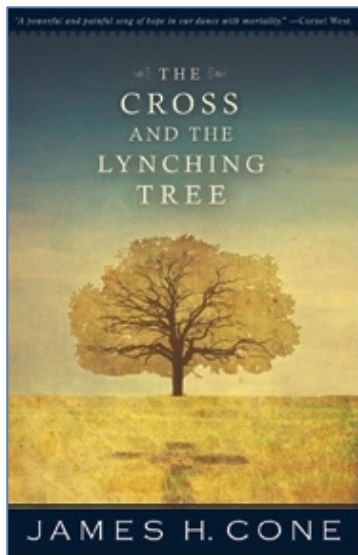
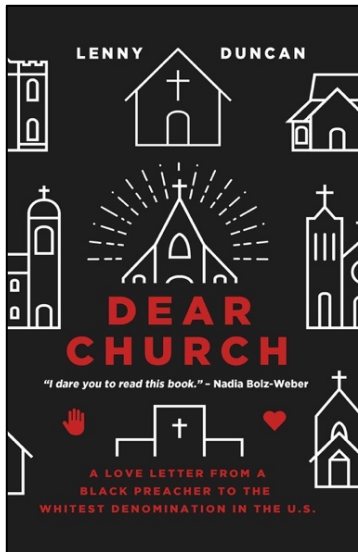
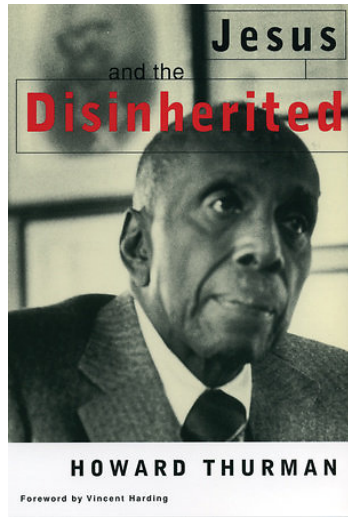
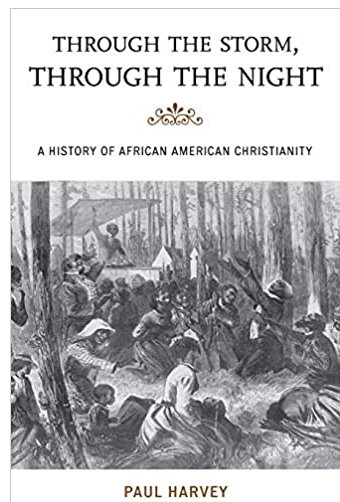
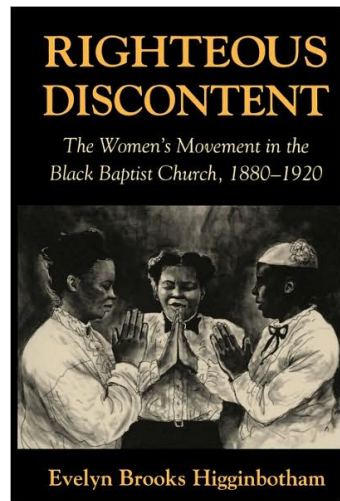
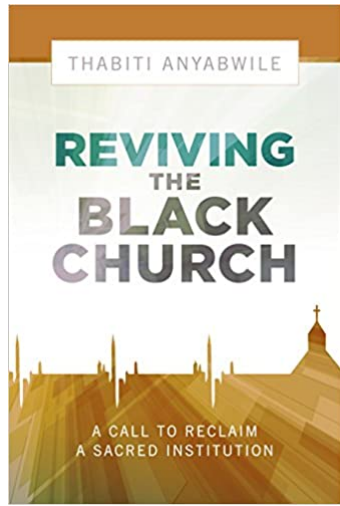
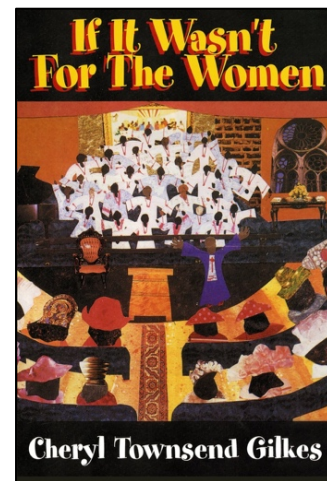
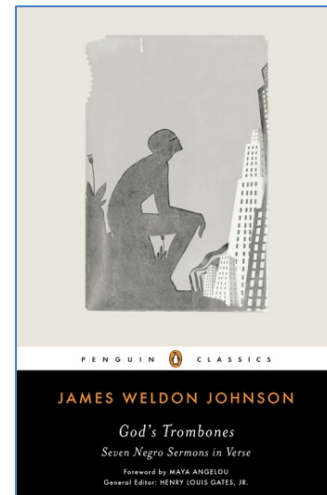
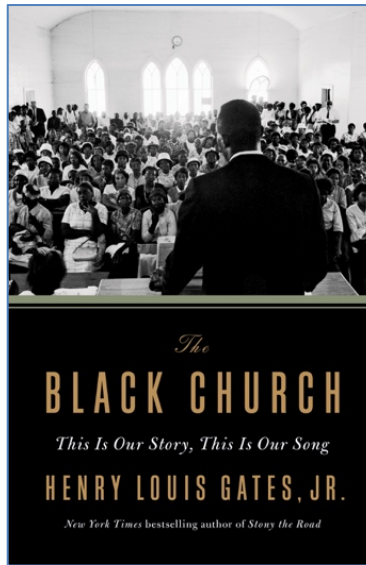


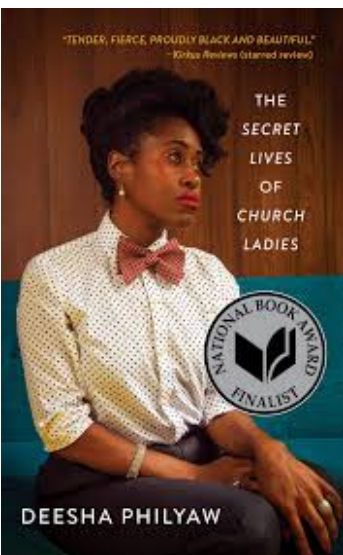
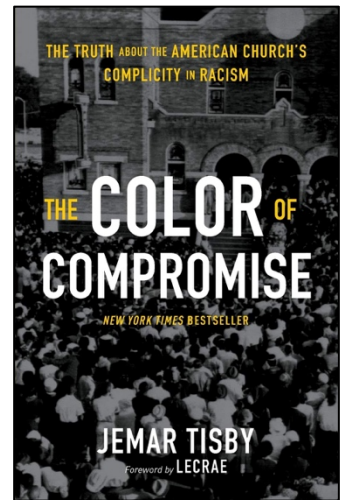
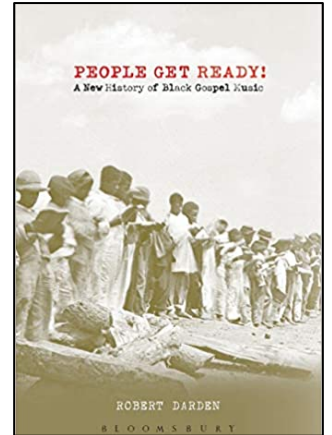
READ



EXPLORE



THE BLACK CHURCH





SUGGESTED READING LIST

Discover how the Black Church expanded its reach to address social inequality and minister to those in need, from the Jim Crow South to the heroic phase of the Civil Rights movement and its role in the present day society. A place of worship for some and social justice for others, the Church has played a central role in Black America for 400 years. This collection of books will allow the reader to explore the history of it all, alongside *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song* on PBS. Stream it at [Pbs.org/blackchurch](https://www.pbs.org/blackchurch) and follow the conversation at [#BlackChurchPBS](https://twitter.com/BlackChurchPBS)

Reviving The Black Church

<< **Thabiti Anyabwile**

Does the black church need a spiritual revival? A thought provoking, informative, and hopeful read about what steps can be taken to strengthen the black church.

Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880–1920

<< **Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham**

In this piece, Higginbotham recounts the crucial role of black women in making the church a powerful institution for social and political change in the black community. In her account, we see how the efforts of women enabled the church to build schools, provide food and clothing to the poor, and offer a host of social welfare services. Higginbotham is featured in *The Black Church*.

Through the Storm Through the Night

<< **Paul Harvey**

This book provides an overview of the history of African American religion beginning in the transatlantic slave trade up until the growth in America. The author covers gender and class divisions in churches that pulled in congregants of wide income, education, and worship style.

Jesus and the Disinherited

<< **Howard Thurman**

Acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman shares how only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail. Though this book is seventy years old, Thurman's message is completely applicable today.

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US << **Lenny Duncan**

As a formerly incarcerated black preacher in the whitest US denomination: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Duncan shares his dynamic story and raises the issues of sexuality, violence, dismantling racism and white privilege in this emotionally driven letter.

The Cross and the Lynching Tree

<< **James H. Cone**

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone, author of **For My People**, explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song

<< **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**

In this companion book to the upcoming PBS series, Gates recalls his tender and magisterial reckoning with the meaning of the Black church in American history. The Black Church plays central role in many stories of the action at every stage of the American story, as this enthralling history makes vividly clear.

People Get Ready << **Robert Darden**

This book is a carefully researched collection from spirituals, to jubilee, to contemporary gospel. It also chronicles the connection between gospels precursors and modern gospel singers.

God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons In Verse

<< **James Walden Johnson**

A leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance, James Weldon Johnson is one of the most revered African Americans of all time. In this collection he speaks of the long tradition of African American preaching not generally known or appreciated outside of African American circles. He is also the lyricist of *Life Every Voice And Sing*, the Black National Anthem,

If It Wasn't For The Women

<< **Cheryl Gilkes**

This book is a collection of essays examining the roles of women in their church community. The role of women in the black church is a large one, with many actions being impossible if it weren't for the women making them happen.

The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism << **Jemar Tisby**

Tisby details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. This piece guides readers through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

Secret Lives of Church Ladies

<< **Deesha Philyaw**

While this collection of short stories differs from the majority of the list, Philyaw introduces us to four generations of characters grappling with who they want to be in the world, caught between the church's double standards and their own needs and passions.